

Water and Wastewater Operational Approvals Expedited Review Program

A. Scope:

Legislation (Section 44-1-165 of S.1263) was passed that allows the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (the Department) to pilot an Expedited Review Program (ERP). The program chosen for this pilot study is the Water and Wastewater Operational Approvals, with the pilot scheduled to start on **May 1, 2007**. During the pilot period, the Department will adjust staffing levels to accommodate the demand for expedited review. Applicants desiring consideration for the expedited review program should indicate by checking the box at the top of DHEC Form(s) 2619 (Water) or 2620 (Wastewater).

B. Goal:

The goal is to have the operational approval granted in no more than 5 business days after the local EQC regional office receives a complete certification package from the design engineer.

C. Quality Reports:

The Department is expecting the highest of quality in final certification packages.

D. Procedures:

The Applicant seeking an expedited water and/or wastewater operational approval indicates interest in participating in this program by checking the ERP Box at the top of DHEC Form 2619 or 2620.

1. Certification packages must be administratively complete in order to be considered for the program.
2. All projects with the Expedited Review Box checked on the form will be placed in line, by chronological order, and kept there until:
 - a. The project has been chosen for expedited review;
 - b. The Applicant decides to no longer be considered for expedited review (this request must be submitted in writing from the Applicant); or
 - c. The Applicant is determined not to be eligible to participate in the program.
3. The number of review staff available for expedited review will determine the number of projects selected. These projects will be assigned based on when they were determined to be eligible for the program, in chronological order.
4. Designated "expedited review" regional staff will only review the approved, permitted plans. An Applicant cannot submit a modified set of plans. The Department reserves the right to give priority to projects that are considered Environmental or Health Hazards (e.g., failing septic tanks, contaminated drinking water wells).
5. The Applicant is required to submit to the local EQC Regional Office an Operational Approval Form, the Expedited Review Fee and a complete and accurate Certification Package.
6. The local EQC Regional Office will contact the Columbia BES Asst. Chief or Bureau Chief for assignment to an expedited review engineer. The reviewer will grant the operational approval(s) within 5 business days of receiving a complete operational package, including the Expedited Review Fee. An actual inspection of the project may or may not take place, depending on the nature of the project.

E. Eligibility:

If the Applicant or their Design Engineer submits insufficient certification packages more than once they will not be eligible for participation in this program for a period of one year. Insufficiencies would include but is not limited to submittals that: are not high in quality; are incomplete; or; fail to submit payment on time.

The Department reserves the right to determine Applicants who have had significant non-compliance issues as not eligible for this program.

F. Fees:

The expedited fee for operational approvals is in addition to the normal construction permitting fees and the expedited fee for construction permitting, if selected.

The expedited review fee must be submitted with the final operational approval submittal.

The fees are as follows:

Water Distribution Lines only:	\$1,000
Wastewater Lines only:	\$1,000
Combined Water & Wastewater Lines only:	\$1,500
Water Systems with Mechanical (i.e., booster pumps, storage tanks):	\$2,000
Wastewater Systems with Mechanical (i.e., pump stations):	\$2,000

Example 1:	Water Distribution Line Project & Wastewater pump station	
	Water Distribution Lines only:	\$1,000
	Wastewater Systems with Mechanical (i.e., pump stations):	\$2,000
	Total	\$3,000

Example 2:	Water Distribution System with Storage Tank & Wastewater pump station	
	Water Systems with Mechanical (i.e., booster pumps, storage tanks):	\$2,000
	Wastewater Systems with Mechanical (i.e., pump stations):	\$2,000
	Total	\$4,000

G. Exceptions:

1. Expedited review selection will be suspended during a week when there are two or more state holidays.
2. Anyone (Applicant or Design Engineer) on the Suspended List is not eligible for expedited review for the noted One-Year time period.
3. Projects that are under a compliance order will not be ineligible for expedited review:
4. If an application is determined to be administratively incomplete upon receipt by the Department, the project will not be considered for the ERP. The application must be considered administratively complete to be eligible.